

08/877347

1. A system for integrating a plurality of television signal sources into a cohesive viewing environment, the system comprising:

5 a standard broadcast-frequency television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a broadcast television program;

a cable television input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a cable television program;

10 an output to deliver a video program to display device;

a user command input device;

means for storing information representative of channel designations; and

15 a system controller operative to perform the following functions in response to a user commands:

assign and re-assign user-defined channels designations to channels present on any of the associated inputs, and store the designations for future use, and

20 selectively route a television program from any of the associated inputs to the output for viewing on the display device, the switching of a particular input being a function of the user-defined channel designations.

2. The system of claim 1, the cable tuner
25 further including a descrambler module for premium services.

3. The system of claim 1, further including:
a direct-broadcast-satellite (DBS) television

Sub
B1

input and an associated multi-channel tuner operative to selectively tune a DBS program, the controller being further operative to assign and store user-defined DBS channels designations and selectively route the DBS program
5 to the output for viewing on the display device in accordance with the channel designations.

4. The system of claim 1, further including a telephone interface to facilitate an automatic account transaction associated with a pay-per-view program.

10 5. The system of claim 1, further including:
an input to receive a previously locally stored video program, the controller being further operative to selectively route the program to the output for viewing on the display device.

15 6. The system of claim 1, the output including separate baseband audio and video outputs.

7. The system of claim 1, further including an input to receive a digital program in data compressed form and means for selectively digitally decompressing the
20 program prior to delivery to the display device.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein one or more additional channels carry supplemental program information, the system being further capable of automatically determining at least one of the additional channels and
25 tuning that channel so as to output the program along with

the supplemental information.

9. The system of claim 8, the additional channel carrying supplemental information to facilitate ^ahigher-resolution viewing of the program.

Sub 10. The system of claim 9, including supplemental information associated with one eye of the viewer to facilitate stereoscopic viewing.

11. The system of claim 8, the additional channel carrying supplemental audio information.

10 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is capable of automatically determining at least one of the additional channels by extracting a supplemental channel information from a program channel.

15 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information is carried by the program channel on a repetitive basis in a non-viewable portion of program signal.

20 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information is carried by the program channel only at the start of a particular program.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the supplemental channel information changes during the receipt

SBC-01402/03
50806sh

of a particular program to which supplemental information may be associated.

16. The system of claim 8, wherein the system is capable of automatically determining at least one of the
5 additional channels by receiving a code containing additional channel information.

17. The system of claim 8, further including a plurality of outputs associated with a program and supplemental information, enabling a user to record a
10 program received from a program channel and one or more additional channels.

SECRET